

Dear Building Officials:

The South Carolina Residential Builders Commission ("Commission") would like to bring to your attention a recent amendment to its regulation, S.C. Reg. 106-1, effective May 25, 2018. The text of the amended regulation is attached for your review.

Under this amendment, "solar panel installers" has been added as a classification for residential specialty contractors. Please note that while a person holding a residential specialty contractor registration for "solar panel installer" is authorized to fabricate, assemble, install, and replace solar panels and related building components, the actual roof mounting of such panels may only be performed by a licensed residential builder, registered residential specialty contractor with a roofer classification, or a licensed general contractor with a general roofing or specialty roofing classification. Likewise, the wiring of the solar panels and other electrical connections must be performed by a licensed residential builder, a licensed residential electrician, or a licensed mechanical contractor with an electrical classification. Finally, if the roof requires any structural upgrades for the mounting and installation of the solar panels, the structural upgrades must be performed by a licensed residential builder, a registered residential specialty contractor with a classification in carpentry, or a licensed general contractor with building or structural framing classifications.

The Commission hopes that this regulation change clarifies any issues that building code departments may have had or are experiencing with solar panel installations, as well as assists the code officials in identifying appropriate permitting requirements for projects involving solar panels.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission with any questions you may have concerning this regulatory amendment.